

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a plurality of collaborative sessions in a networked computing environment, the method comprising:

sending collaborative data from a first instance of a collaborative application on a first computer system to ~~a second instance of the collaborative application on a second computer system;~~

automatically determining an application type of the collaborative application;

automatically determining that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

automatically instantiating a second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system in response to determining that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

using the second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system to receive the collaborative data from the first instance of the collaborative application;

sending collaborative data from the second instance of the collaborative application to the first instance of the collaborative application;

sending collaborative data from a third instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system to a fourth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system; and

sending collaborative data from the fourth instance of the collaborative application to the third instance of the collaborative application.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein each instance of the collaborative application is associated with a globally unique ID (GUID) which distinguishes the respective instance from other instances in the networked computing environment.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein each respective instance of the collaborative application sends and receives collaborative data by sending and receiving messages through a distributed computing infrastructure.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the collaborative application comprises a chat application which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using text;

wherein the collaborative data comprises text to be displayed.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the collaborative application comprises a shared whiteboard application which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using graphical data on a virtual shared whiteboard;

wherein the collaborative data comprises graphical data to be displayed.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a plurality of collaborative sessions in a networked computing environment, the method comprising:

maintaining a first collaborative session, wherein the first collaborative session comprises transmission of a first set of collaborative data between a first instance of a collaborative application on a first computer system and a second instance of the collaborative application on a second computer system, wherein the second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system is automatically instantiated in response to receiving the first set of collaborative data at the second computer system;

maintaining a second collaborative session, wherein the second collaborative session comprises transmission of a second set of collaborative data between a third instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system and a fourth instance of the collaborative application on a third computer system;

wherein transmission of at least a portion of the second set of collaborative data occurs prior to transmission of all of the first set of collaborative data.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9,

wherein the method further comprises:

initiating a fifth instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system;

sending a private message from the fifth instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system to the second computer system;

receiving the message at the second computer system;

initiating a sixth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system in response to receiving the message, wherein a third collaborative session comprises the fifth instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system and the sixth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system; and

displaying the message using the sixth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9,

wherein each instance of the collaborative application is associated with a globally unique ID (GUID) which distinguishes the respective instance from other instances in the networked computing environment.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9,

wherein transmission of collaborative data is performed by sending and receiving messages through a distributed computing infrastructure.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9,

wherein the first collaborative session comprises a chat session which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using text;

wherein the collaborative data comprises text to be displayed.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9,

wherein the first collaborative session comprises a shared whiteboard session which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using graphical data on a virtual shared whiteboard;

wherein the collaborative data comprises graphical data to be displayed.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

determining an application type of the collaborative application used in the collaborative sessions; and

determining ~~whether an~~ that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

wherein the second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system is automatically instantiated further in response to determining that no

existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system.

~~wherein the transmission of the first set of collaborative data comprises sending the collaborative data to the existing instance if the existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system; and~~

~~wherein the transmission of the first set of collaborative data comprises sending the collaborative data to a new instance of the collaborative application if the existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is not running on the second computer system.~~

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9,

wherein the first set of collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9,

wherein the first set of collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising program instructions for providing a plurality of collaborative sessions in a networked computing environment, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

sending collaborative data from a first instance of a collaborative application on a first computer system to ~~a second instance of the collaborative application on~~ a second computer system;

automatically determining an application type of the collaborative application;

automatically determining that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

automatically instantiating a second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system in response to determining that no existing instance of the

application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

using the second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system to receive the collaborative data from the first instance of the collaborative application;

sending collaborative data from the second instance of the collaborative application to the first instance of the collaborative application;

sending collaborative data from a third instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system to a fourth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system; and

sending collaborative data from the fourth instance of the collaborative application to the third instance of the collaborative application.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,

wherein each instance of the collaborative application is associated with a globally unique ID (GUID) which distinguishes the respective instance from other instances in the networked computing environment.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,

wherein each respective instance of the collaborative application sends and receives collaborative data by sending and receiving messages through a distributed computing infrastructure.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,

wherein the collaborative application comprises a chat application which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using text;

wherein the collaborative data comprises text to be displayed.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,

wherein the collaborative application comprises a shared whiteboard application which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using graphical data on a virtual shared whiteboard;

wherein the collaborative data comprises graphical data to be displayed.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising program instructions for providing a plurality of collaborative sessions in a networked computing environment, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

maintaining a first collaborative session, wherein the first collaborative session comprises transmission of a first set of collaborative data between a first instance of a collaborative application on a first computer system and a second instance of the collaborative application on a second computer system, wherein the second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system is automatically instantiated in response to receiving the first set of collaborative data at the second computer system;

maintaining a second collaborative session, wherein the second collaborative session comprises transmission of a second set of collaborative data between a third instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system and a fourth instance of the collaborative application on a third computer system;

wherein transmission of at least a portion of the second set of collaborative data occurs prior to transmission of all of the first set of collaborative data.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26,
wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:
initiating a fifth instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system;
sending a private message from the fifth instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system to the second computer system;
receiving the message at the second computer system;
initiating a sixth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system in response to receiving the message, wherein a third collaborative session comprises the fifth instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system and the sixth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system;
and
displaying the message using the sixth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26,
wherein each instance of the collaborative application is associated with a globally unique ID (GUID) which distinguishes the respective instance from other instances in the networked computing environment.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26,
wherein transmission of collaborative data is performed by sending and receiving messages through a distributed computing infrastructure.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26,
wherein the first collaborative session comprises a chat session which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using text;

wherein the collaborative data comprises text to be displayed.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26,

wherein the first collaborative session comprises a shared whiteboard session which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using graphical data on a virtual shared whiteboard;

wherein the collaborative data comprises graphical data to be displayed.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

determining an application type of the collaborative application used in the collaborative sessions; and

determining ~~whether an~~ that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

wherein the second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system is automatically instantiated further in response to determining that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system.

~~wherein the transmission of the first set of collaborative data comprises sending the collaborative data to the existing instance if the existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system; and~~

~~wherein the transmission of the first set of collaborative data comprises sending the collaborative data to a new instance of the collaborative application if the existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is not running on the second computer system.~~

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26,

wherein the first set of collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26,
wherein the first set of collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

35. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first computer system, comprising a first CPU and a first memory;

one or more additional computer systems including a second computer system, each comprising a respective additional CPU and a respective additional memory, wherein the one or more additional computer systems are communicatively coupled to the first computer system via a network;

wherein the first memory and the additional memories comprise program instructions which are executable by the first CPU and the additional CPUs to:

send collaborative data from a first instance of a collaborative application on a first computer system to ~~a second instance of the collaborative application on a the~~ second computer system;

automatically determine an application type of the collaborative application;

automatically determine that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

automatically instantiate a second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system in response to determining that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the second computer system;

use the second instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system to receive the collaborative data from the first instance of the collaborative application;

send collaborative data from the second instance of the collaborative application to the first instance of the collaborative application;

send collaborative data from a third instance of the collaborative application on the first computer system to a fourth instance of the collaborative application on the second computer system; and

send collaborative data from the fourth instance of the collaborative application to the third instance of the collaborative application.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35,

wherein each instance of the collaborative application is associated with a globally unique ID (GUID) which distinguishes the respective instance from other instances in the networked computing environment.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35,

wherein each respective instance of the collaborative application sends and receives collaborative data by sending and receiving messages through a distributed computing infrastructure.

38. (Original) The system of claim 35,

wherein the collaborative application comprises a chat application which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using text;

wherein the collaborative data comprises text to be displayed.

39. (Original) The system of claim 35,

wherein the collaborative application comprises a shared whiteboard application which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of the second computer system to communicate using graphical data on a virtual shared whiteboard;

wherein the collaborative data comprises graphical data to be displayed.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) The system of claim 35,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

42. (Original) The system of claim 35,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to the second computer system and one or more additional computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

43. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first computer system, comprising a first CPU and a first memory;

a plurality of additional computer systems, each comprising a respective additional CPU and a respective additional memory, wherein the plurality of additional computer systems are communicatively coupled to the first computer system via a network;

wherein the first computer system and a first subset of the additional computer systems are operable to maintain a first collaborative session, wherein a first instance of a collaborative application is stored in the first memory and executable by the first CPU, and wherein a respective instance of the collaborative application is stored in the respective memory and executable by the respective CPU of each of the first subset of the additional computer systems;

wherein the first computer system and a second subset of the additional computer systems are operable to maintain a second collaborative session, wherein a second instance of the collaborative application is stored in the first memory and executable by the first CPU, and wherein a respective instance of the collaborative application is stored in the respective memory and executable by the respective CPU of each of the second subset of the additional computer systems;

wherein the first collaborative session comprises transmission of collaborative data among the first instance of a collaborative application on the first computer system and the respective instances of the collaborative application on the first subset of the additional computer systems, wherein the respective instances of the collaborative

application on each of the first subset of the additional computer systems are automatically instantiated in response to receiving the collaborative data at each of the first subset of the additional computer systems;

wherein the second collaborative session comprises transmission of collaborative data among the second instance of a collaborative application on the first computer system and the respective instances of the collaborative application on the second subset of the additional computer systems.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43,

wherein each instance of the collaborative application is associated with a globally unique ID (GUID) which distinguishes the respective instance from other instances in the networked computing environment.

45. (Original) The system of claim 43,

wherein transmission of collaborative data is performed by sending and receiving messages through a distributed computing infrastructure.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43,

wherein each collaborative session comprises a chat session which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of at least one of the plurality of additional computer systems to communicate using text;

wherein the collaborative data comprises text to be displayed.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43,

wherein each collaborative session comprises a shared whiteboard session which enables a user of the first computer system and a user of at least one of the plurality of additional computer systems to communicate using graphical data on a virtual shared whiteboard;

wherein the collaborative data comprises graphical data to be displayed.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein the first computer system and the additional computer systems are operable to:

determine an application type of the collaborative application used in the collaborative sessions; and

determine ~~whether an~~ that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on one of the plurality of additional computer systems;

wherein the respective instance of the collaborative application on the one of the plurality of additional computer systems is automatically instantiated further in response to determining that no existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the one of the plurality of additional computer systems.

~~wherein the transmission of the first set of collaborative data comprises sending the collaborative data to the existing instance if the existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is running on the one of the plurality of additional computer systems; and~~

~~wherein the transmission of the first set of collaborative data comprises sending the collaborative data to a new instance of the collaborative application if the existing instance of the application type of the collaborative application is not running on the one of the plurality of additional computer systems.~~

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to at least one of the plurality of additional computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43,

wherein the collaborative data is sent from the first computer system to at least one of the plurality of additional computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.